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II. In accordance with the recently enunciated policy to maintain surveillance of the entire Caribbean area for the purpose of providing the U. S. with essential information on the flow of Soviet military arms and equipment into Cuba, the Air Force has contracted with Lockheed Aircraft Corporation for the ^{SERVICES}~~services~~ of a Lockheed U-2 and civilian pilot to perform shipping reconnaissance over international waters on the periphery of the island of Cuba. (U)

1. The Lockheed aircraft, an improved performance version of the conventional U-2, was selected because of its unique capability to perform this mission, and because the military U-2's are presently fully committed to other programs.

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10 October 1962

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COVER SUPPORT TO OPERATION NIMBUS

I. OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

The objective of Operation NIMBUS is photographic and electronic reconnaissance of selected military and intelligence targets on the Island of Cuba. The instrument to be used to accomplish the objective is the U-2 aircraft.

II. GENERAL OPERATIONAL COVER PLAN:

~~In accordance with the President's recently enunciated policy to conduct complete surveillance of the entire Caribbean area for the purpose of providing the U. S. with necessary information as to the openly hostile intentions of the Soviet supported Castro regime in Cuba, the Air Force has contracted with LAC for the services of a Lockheed U-2 and civilian pilot to perform certain peripheral missions around the Island of Cuba. The Lockheed aircraft was needed because of its improved capabilities for electronic surveillance and because those in the AF inventory were committed to other programs.~~

Insert and attach para. attached.

III. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS OPERATION THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE:

A. Hostile:

Cuba

B. Other:

Puerto Rico
Jamaica
Bahamas
Haiti
Dominican Republic

IV. PERTINENT COVER STORIES TO BE DISSEMINATED BY RESPONSIBLE ACTION OFFICERS ARE INDICATED BELOW:

A. General Press and Publication Inquiries:

1. Cover Story

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The U-2 is a Lockheed owned aircraft, operated under contract with the USAF to provide certain unique surveillance capabilities in keeping with the current U. S. policy to observe all shipping and other Communist activities in support of the Castro regime in Cuba. These flights, in the vicinity of Cuba are to be conducted over the international waters of the Caribbean. (N.B. - All necessary documents have been executed to show Lockheed as the owner of the U-2; the test pilot is documented as a civilian employee of Lockheed; the aircraft is devoid of AF markings, carrying only an FAA experimental tail number and the Lockheed name stenciled on the fuselage.) CINCLANT will be advised of the foregoing and instructed to refer any press inquiries to the Director, Office of Information, OSAF (General Martin), The Under Secretary of the Air Force (Dr. Charyk) will furnish Gen. Martin a statement conforming to Para. II., above.

2. Responsible Action Offices

Department of Defense (Dr. Charyk)
Lockheed Aircraft Corporation (Mr. Johnson)

3. Coordinating Office prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

B. Activities at Training/Staging Bases:

1. Cover Story

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The U-2 is a Lockheed-owned aircraft, flown by a Lockheed civilian employee from Edwards Air Force Base, California, engaged in fuel consumption, range and other studies pertinent to a continuing modification program under contract with the USAF.

2. Responsible Action Offices

Department of Defense (Dr. Charyk)
Lockheed Aircraft Corporation (Mr. Johnson)

3. Coordinating Office prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

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C. Emergency Landings at Bases within Continental U. S.:

1. Cover Story

Same as IV.B. above, if story is necessary.

2. Responsible Action Offices

Department of Defense (Dr. Charyk)
Lockheed Aircraft Corporation (Mr. Johnson)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

D. Incident Over Hostile Territory (See III.A)

1. Cover Story

In this instance, the pilot is under strict instructions to destroy the aircraft at sea, with one exception. If he is within emergency landing distance of the Guantanamo Naval Base he will head offshore, contact the base by prearranged signal which will scramble a fighter escort, and land at Guantanamo from the direction of the open sea.

If he falls into the hands of Castro forces, he will repeat the story given in Para. IV.E. below and add only the additional information of his name, date of birth and his address in the U.S.

2. Responsible Action Office

Department of State (Mr. Hilsman)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

E. Incident over Other Territory Outside the U. S. (See III.B.)

1. Cover Story

Civilian test pilot, an employee of Lockheed, will state that he was flying over international waters in the vicinity of Cuba to perform surveillance of the area in fulfillment of a Lockheed contract with the USAF. (N.B. - Instructions to the pilot are to secure the aircraft through local assistance to prevent damage and pilferage and to contact the local U. S. Consulate to assist him in communicating with his emergency contacts (1) Mission Control Center or (2) Lockheed Corp.)

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2. Responsible Action Offices

Department of Defense (Dr. Charyk)
Lockheed Aircraft Corporation (Mr. Johnson)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

F. Hostile Protest Without Incident:

1. Cover Story

All interested departments of the U. S. Government, if queried, will deny knowledge of any such overflights of Cuba.

2. Responsible Action Offices

Not applicable, since all departments will deny knowledge of Cuban overflights.

3. Coordinating Offices Prior to Release

Not applicable.

V. The following offices or individuals have been briefed on this cover plan by Dr. Joseph V. Charyk and have been instructed to either respond to press inquiries as directed or to refer such inquiries to Headquarters, USAF-Office of Information (Gen. Martin):

(TO BE INSERTED WHEN IDENTIFIED)
~~Commander, Air Force Missile Test Center, Cape Canaveral (Maj. Gen. Davis)~~
~~Commander, Air Force Logistics Command (Gen. Bradley)~~
~~Commander, Air Force Systems Command (Gen. Schriever)~~

VI. The following offices or individuals have been briefed on this cover plan by Col. Ralph D. Steakley and have been instructed to either respond to press inquiries as directed or to refer such inquiries to Headquarters, USAF-Office of Information (Gen. Martin):

~~Commander, Strategic Air Command (Gen. Power)~~
~~Commander, Boney Air Force Base (Col. Shy)~~
CINCLANT (Admiral Dennison)

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VII. The following named individuals are being furnished a copy of this document for purposes of internal coordination with cleared personnel within their respective departments:

Dr. Joseph V. Charyk	- Department of Defense
Brig. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale	- Department of Defense
Mr. Thomas Parrott	- Office of the Military Representative to the President
Mr. Roger Hilsman	- Department of State
Dr. Herbert Scoville	- Central Intelligence Agency
Col. Ralph D. Steakley	- Department of Defense (JCS)
Col. Leo P. Geary	- AFCIG-5, Special Projects, USAF

VIII. It is recommended that each Agency maintain a list of all cleared personnel within their respective organizations who have been briefed on this cover plan.

IX. The Central Intelligence Agency will notify each Agency of any change to this plan, and in turn requests that any alterations be coordinated with the CIA prior to implementation.

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CIA CONTACT:

OFFICE TELEPHONE:

CIA CONTROL CENTER

HOME TELEPHONE:

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